

The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

1615 Old Louisburg Rd Raleigh, NC 27604

Phone: 919-400-5570

“All Aboard”

I must begin my first column as President with thanks to John Spach. His five-year tenure as President was marked by membership growth, financial success, and numerous accomplishments in the Club and in the model railroad community at large. As we go forward, Club members should be proud of our growth, ability to hold dues in check against rising inflation, additions to our layouts and inventories, more numerous Club trips and activities, bigger and better train shows, and increased membership.

However, we must also deal with problems that success has brought – most notably increasing demands on our facilities, increasing need for help for an aging membership, and increasing stress from overcrowding. As a group, we must recognize and deal with these problems:

- a larger facility is needed in the relatively near future to ease overcrowding issues and to assure that the Club has a facility that will allow for future stability and growth;
- recruitment of younger members to assure the Club’s future is needed; and
- members and officers must remember that our common goals and interests take priority over the normal stresses associated with interactions within large numbers of people.

We will address the first two issues through the Board of Governors and existing committees. Membership input is solicited to help in locating a new home and in recruiting new members.

Everyone must help deal with the final item. In the past month, we have had multiple unpleasant verbal exchanges between Club members in Public Events. This presents a bad image of the Club and damages the camaraderie that we wish to promote among members. As mature adults, each of us should be able to recognize conflicts and de-escalate before shouting matches occur. I ask each of you to accept responsibility for helping to preserve our values as a group. Please keep personal and political issues out of discussions in the Clubhouse. Let’s all remember why we enjoy the hobby and the benefits of the Club.

All Aboard

Ken Howard, President

Thanks for a Great Five Years

Vice President Ken Howard presents a service award to John Spach in recognition of his successful tenure as Club President over the last five years. Appropriately, the bottom line on the plaque reads “Live Long and Prosper.”



(photo by Tom Garren)



(photo by George Sawyer)

Not So Friendly **Reminder**



Nothing quite shows your love of the Club and respect for the other members like a rotting banana peel in an empty (except for crumbs) giant box of Goldfish. **Food scraps and soiled containers are to depart with you when you leave!** (photo by John Spach)

“SPRING INTO TRAINS” – May 23-24, 2026

The Club’s strategic move to the Graham Building for the “Spring Into Trains” Show proved to be worth the risks involved. The show set a record for spring attendance, and Club table sales were brisk. Despite the short notice we had over 350 vendor tables and 11 layouts. The show turned a profit despite the increased costs for the Graham Building from the Fairgrounds. Enjoy browsing through the memories in the photos below. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the spring show.

It Begins with the Loadout – May 22, 2026

Packing and preparation are the first step in the process and begin about a week before the show. Merchandise to be sold gets stockpiled in the Crew Lounge for ease in loading.



John Spach and Jim Smith survey the stacks of boxes in the Crew Lounge ready to load (photo by Ken Howard).



George Sawyer surrendering or pointing to the O gauge boxes that aren’t visible in the first photo (photo by Ken Howard).

Enjoy the following photographs courtesy of Tom Garren, who documented the load out at the Clubhouse.



Patrick O’Neil was a great help to a group with an average age of 77.



Ken Howard with a stack of tubs headed for the truck.



Daphne Garren (packer extraordinaire) looks really tiny inside the truck.



George Sawyer with an appropriate tub full of Lionel.



Jim Smith leaving to get another load.



Jimmy Hall and Bob Witwer at the back storage room



Daphne Garren, Patrick O'Neil, and Bob Witwer.



John Kuchnia and Daphne Garren.

Special thanks to Paul Lebedinski and Schafer O'Neil for picking up and driving the truck before during and after the show.
Good Job Guys!

Prize Winning Layouts

Results of balloting by our attendees for their favorite layouts have been tabulated, and the resulting winners are shown below (thanks to Jake Forbes for the photos).



People's Choice Honorable Mention to Atlantic Coast S Gaugers – Carolina Division



Best of Show Layout first place to North Raleigh Model Railroad Club T-TRAK/NRV T-TRAK.



Best of Show Honorable Mention to Bob Hippard, East Carolina Railroaders O gauge Yard.



Steve Will's LEGO layout won first place People's Choice Award



Bill Swint holds two awards for Carolina Southern Railroad - Sipping & Switching Society.

Door Prize Recipients

Thanks to Alan Servas for taking photos of our sponsors and prize winners throughout both days.



Cassie Smith receives her for prize from Red Wild Diorama



Craig Williams from CSW Trains presents prize to David Yancey



Craig Williams from CSW Trains presents prize to Gabriel White



Jacob Clark receives weathered box car prize from Wheeler's Trains



Josi David receives her PECO track door prize from NRV



Kevin Dumphy and wife receive award from Golden East Modelers



Matt Munich and friend receive N scale trestle donated by Len Nieman



Dal Cook of Mohawk Design presents TEE shirt to Kevin Garlan



Tammy McElwaine receive prize from Liz of Whitney's Model Trains



Telly Mays and her husband receive a door prize from Tichy Trains



Landon Soroca receives his prize of 2 Azrax Crossing digital switches from Bob Witwer of NRV



Glenn Hajnos and family receive a \$100 prize from Nick's Trains



Kevin Gilland gets a TEE Shirt from Dal of Mohawk Designs

NRV congratulates the winners and sends sincere thanks to all the individuals and sponsors who contributed Door Prizes and Awards for this Show.

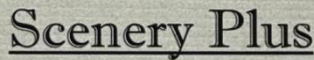
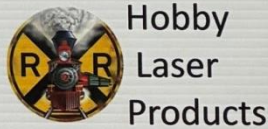
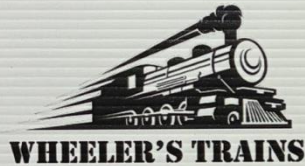
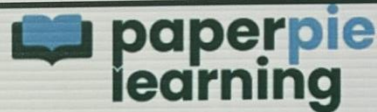
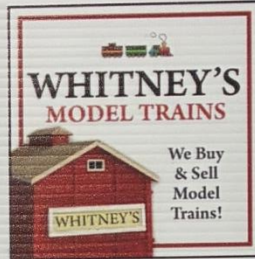
By-the-Way: Dues for fiscal 2026-2027 are now due and payable by the end of June. Please keep your membership current.



The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club
9th Annual SPRING INTO TRAINS SHOW



SPONSORS



Thank you to our sponsors for helping make this show a success!

The Wrap Up

Tom Garren took the photos below of the last hurrah – portering for vendors and cleanup.



Bob Witwer and Jim Smith help vendor John Rose



Paul Lebidinski



Daphne Garren and Teresa Smith



Brad Bouch and Jim Smith

Tom Garren's Trivia Question

What was the first patriotic bicentennial locomotive in America?

Find the answer on Page 13

Neat Links

Tom Magnani passed along the following link to Sacramento Valley Live Steamers 2026 Spring Meet from **Fred Krauss**

<https://youtu.be/mZ5YrTc6aOc?si=ONoCh48sUQJbXymc>

Bob Witwer passed along this link showing your Club's Treasure hard at work!

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Tai9L1HnJvo?is=Ek4CtBXg14AJXwta>

In Case You Wondered About the Food Waste Policy



(photo by Ken Howard – magnification 2X)

This critter, fortunately deceased (from over eating?) was found in the Clubhouse on a recent morning. Considering our past infestations with rodents and sugar ants, we certainly don't want a plague of cockroaches. Please take food scraps and containers with you when you exit the Club.

Real Railroads

By Jake Forbes

Liam Bryant, Thomas Charnley (former NRV member before moving to Virginia after NCSU graduation), Alec Urban, Graham Rousseau, and I travelled to Chattanooga, TN to chase Southern #4501 on the Summerville Steam Special. While on the way Friday, we made a side trip to see the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad's steam locomotive 2-8-0 #1702. After arriving in Chattanooga, we went to Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum (TVRM) to ride their evening Ridge Runner excursion to see Southern #4501 while being fired up for the weekend.

On Saturday, we chased #4501 in her classic Southern green paint scheme harkening back to the 1970s and 80s. Before starting the trek home on Sunday morning, we returned to TVRM to kill some time, and Alec even got to ride in the cab of the GP10 #1716 in charge of the museum's train. Fun was had by all, and lots of photographs were taken over the course of the weekend. Some of my favorites are shown below.



Jim and Teresa Smith have also been chasing trains this month. One of Jim's photos of Big Boy in western New York is included below.



Upcoming Events

OPEN HOUSE: *June 27, 2016 at Rick Allen's "Carolina Southern Railroad" home layout. Kevin Slade is helping Linda to show off the layout one last time. Noon to 4 pm at 107 Coronado Way, Cary, NC 27511.*

BRICK UNIVERSE: *June 27th and 28th at Raleigh's Convention Center. Steve Wills has displayed his LEGO layout with help from Club members since 2017.*

Note: Those who help during the show days are able to get into the event at no charge. You normally do have to pay for parking. See the recent email blast for more particulars. **Please contact Steve at gltterstim@aol.com or 984-292-7938 to offer help.**

NMRA The NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW: *August 1-2, 2026 at the Chattanooga Convention Center, One Carter Plaza, Chattanooga, Tennessee.*

CSRRC 2026 'Field Trip Adventure to the Tweetsie Railroad and the Doe River Gorge Train: *August 28-30, 2026. If you want to join the CSRRC group and get the discounted Tweetsie admission, plus an exclusive, after-hours photo-shoot and a (rare) tour of their steam shop on Sunday, you will need to send a check for \$55.00 for each participant, made out to 'Ben Boney – CSRRC Treasurer', to Ben at 3100 Old Craig Court, Mebane NC 27302. To help us make our arrangements with the Tweetsie Railroad folks in a timely manner, please mail this check to Ben no later than July 31, 2026.*

SOUTHBOUND MODEL TRAIN EXPO 2026: Sponsored by Southbound Model Railroaders and Mike's Trains. August 29 from 9 am - 4 pm and August 30 from 10 am - 4 pm. Winston-Salem Fairgrounds Event Center, Winston-Salem, NC. Admission for both days \$10 for 12 and up

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

June General Membership Meeting: The next membership meeting will be held on June 18th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Collin Martinko will give the presentation following the meeting titled *Seaboard Coast Line Passenger Trains and Equipment*.

June HO Committee Meeting: Scheduled for 1:00 pm on July 21st.

July Board of Governors Meeting: The July BoG meeting will be held on Monday, July 6th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held on Zoom only.

Breakfast Social: Join us for the breakfast social every Wednesday, 9:00 am at Barry's Café, Raleigh, NC.

Notes from the Editor

Please send articles, photos of real trains, Club activities, book reviews, product reviews, photographs of your home layouts, and interesting links to Ken Howard, Whistle Post Editor, at klhowardjr@aol.com.

Please support the Club's new Instagram site by submitting videos of operations on the NRV layouts to Alec Urban at alec.urban@icloud.com. Alec is managing the new site.

Minutes of Membership, Board, HO, and N Committee's Meetings

Minutes of Board of Governors, Membership, and HO and N Committee meetings are available on the Club website. The link below takes you directly to the Minutes page:

<https://nrvclub.net/meeting-minutes/>

Answer to Tom Garren's Trivia Question:

It is widely credited that Seaboard Coast Line (SCL) 1776, delivered in June of 1971, was the first locomotive painted in a patriotic red, white, and blue scheme. By the arrival of July 4th 1976, it is reported that over 200 additional diesel locomotives had been painted in patriotic schemes.

SCL 1776 was one of 125 GE U36B locomotives built between 1969 and 1974. SCL ordered 108 units. The other 17 were delivered to Auto Train. The unit was originally SCL 1803 but traded numbers with sister unit 1776. When delivered from GE, it was sent to the paint shop for the now famous custom paint job complete with special lighting to highlight features at night. For the rivet counters out there, please note that these units rode on Blomberg trucks from EMD trade-ins.

Those of us who lived around Raleigh in the early to mid-seventies can recall seeing 1776 in regular freight service on the SCL. Here is a well-known picture of 1776 in the Raleigh area taken by Warren Calloway.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Schaefer O'Neill	Treasurer	schaefer.oneill@gmail.com	919-740-6923
Tom Garren	Secretary	tomgar@mindspring.com	919-805-0909
Richard Calfee (Calfee)	At-Large	rhcalfree@yahoo.com	301-335-1054
Greg Rehe	At-Large	sailors4@spectrum.net	703-973-0357
Jake Forbes	At-Large	jakecraft26@gmail.com	919-995-8131

OTHER KEY POSITIONS

Bob Witwer	Show Chairman	bobwitwer@gmail.com	919-632-0785
Clif Kelly	Membership Chair	bkelly11@nc.rr.com	919-614-8891
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WEB SITE www.nrvclub.net